

UNC School of Medicine  
International Health and/or Medical Spanish Immersion Elective  
Student Feedback Form

*Information that you provide will be entered into a database that future students can use in planning educational electives in international health and/or medical Spanish*

**I. STUDENT INFORMATION**

- A. Student Name: Amanda Rollins  
B: Email: amanda\_rollins@med.unc.edu C. Phone/cell number: \_\_\_\_\_  
D. Graduating year from UNC Medical School: 2010  
E. Check when you took this elective:  
   Summer between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year    4<sup>th</sup> year   x   Other: during 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
F. What UNC Department did you register for this elective through? Family Medicine  
G. Faculty advisor: Martha Carlough  
H. Dates that you did the program: May 4-May30 Year: 2008  
I. From the list below, select the **one choice** that best describes your motivation for taking this elective:  
   interest in international health    desire to get experience for CV/job opportunities  
   interest in travel    family of origin reasons  
   interest in helping others    other: \_\_\_\_\_  
  x   desire to learn/improve Spanish skills

**II. ELECTIVE PROGRAM INFORMATION**

- A. Country where you did the elective: Guatemala  
B. City: Quetzaltenago (Xela)  
C. Name of Program or Hospital where you worked: Pop-Wuj  
D. Website address (if available): [www.pop-wuj.org](http://www.pop-wuj.org)  
E. From the list below, select the choice **that best describes** how you first learned about this program:  
   referral from a friend/personal contact  
  x   web site information from: University of Arizona  
   \_\_\_\_\_ (website [http://www.globalhealth.arizona.edu/Medical\\_Spanish.html](http://www.globalhealth.arizona.edu/Medical_Spanish.html))  
   student who went there    other: \_\_\_\_\_  
F. Name of program person you worked with and contact information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roney Gamarro, [oficina@pop-wuj.org](mailto:oficina@pop-wuj.org)  
G. Costs  
Tuition: \$800 tuition, \$150 registration fee Roundtrip travel: \$ 469.30  
Other expenses you incurred (please list type and amount):  
\$30 Airport Shuttle to/from Bus Station  
\$8 Bus to Xela \$5 cheap hostel  
\$20 Bus to/from Midwife's Clinic  
\$? Travel to surrounding areas on weekends  
(Note: The "Medical Program" is more expensive than regular class b/c it helps fund the school's clinic.)  
H. Did this program/hospital have a religious affiliation?    YES   x   NO  
If yes, with what group: \_\_\_\_\_  
I. Did this program/hospital have an academic affiliation?    YES    NO  
If yes, with what institution: \_\_\_\_\_

**III. ELECTIVE CHARACTERISTICS**

- A. List three educational outcomes you achieved with this elective  
1. Improved Spanish skills

2. Improved knowledge of the culture and people. This includes the more prosperous Guatemalans in cities, the rural Mayans living according to traditions, and beliefs and practices regarding medicine.
3. Enhanced knowledge of the medical system in place in Guatemala and practical ideas regarding my career goals and improved health care that complements rural daily life.

B. Was the elective a good use of time for you during medical school?  YES  NO

C. Did you have adequate clinical supervision?  YES  NO

D. Did you have adequate opportunities for hands-on clinical work?  YES  NO

E. Would you recommend this elective to other medical students?  YES  NO

If YES, Why? This school has a clinic on the first floor of the building with plans to enlarge it. It has a Guatemalan doctor on staff for the clinic. The group goes out to rural communities once a week to host a free clinic with the Guatemalan doctor and other experienced teacher's supervision. This school also has other programs to participate in (i.e. children's day care for single moms, stove project) that are run by Guatemalans and give a view into other parts of life in Guatemala.

If NO, Why? \_\_\_\_\_

F. Was the program responsive to your needs?  YES  NO

G. Did you have appropriate arrangements for housing, food and safety/health issues?  YES  NO  
If NO, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

H. Did you have adequate information about what to expect in advance?  YES  NO

If NO, what would have been helpful: The school closes earlier on Sunday so if your flight arrives on Sunday, I doubt you can make it to Xela before the school closes. The school left a note about a hostel a couple of block from the school but this was an additional cost. (I walked further to find a \$5 hostel.)

#### IV. FOR MEDICAL SPANISH IMMERSION ELECTIVES ONLY

A. Select the description of your level of Spanish fluency before taking the program:

- No knowledge of Spanish
- Beginner: Some high school and college courses; but minimal fluency
- Adv. beginner: Conversation of common phrases, needs dictionary often; writing ability is limited
- Intermediate: Emerging fluency and writing ability; needs dictionary sometimes
- Advanced: Mostly fluent, can serve as an interpreter at a clinic; writing capacity is developing

B. Was your fluency level assessed appropriately for placement purposes?  YES  NO

C. Estimate the hours per day spent studying medical Spanish: 4.5 hrs

D. Do you feel that your medical Spanish fluency improved during the elective?  YES  NO

E. Did you have opportunities to experience the local culture and medical care environment?  YES  NO  
Please describe:

My Spanish was more advanced than any of the other medical students so I was offered the opportunity to spend my time in the clinic/house of a midwife, Doña Ana, with an intermediate level 4<sup>th</sup> year med student. Doña Ana lives about 45 minutes (total travel time) outside Xela. She and ~90% of her patients speak Mam as their first language and the majority speak Spanish as their second language. I spent the days and slept a few nights at her clinic caring for these patients. Doña Ana would translate the Mam to Spanish for the patients who felt more comfortable speaking in their native language. She had to do most of her diagnosis by physical exam, taught us how, and then let us examine the patient and tell her our findings and diagnosis.

F. Comment on positive features of this program/elective:

Everyone gets tired of the “Cultural Competency” classes that they have to take and this Pop-Wuj traditionally requires that incoming students take 1 week of classes before being allowed out into the community. I thought this was extreme but when I saw the exception to this rule, I realized how valuable this preliminary week was. When 2 large groups arrived to do free clinics in multiple communities, they took approximately the same classes but at random times that didn’t conflict with the health fairs. It is difficult to assign a tangible critique in their interactions and relating to the Guatemalans, but my fellow cultural-competency-week-students and I could see that we had acquired a depth of understanding of and relating to the culture that the large groups did not demonstrate.

G. Comment on features that could be improved:

Pop-Wuj states on their website that only 4<sup>th</sup> year med students with advanced Spanish and MDs may apply. When I was there the Spanish students were about evenly split between Premeds/rising MS2s and MS3s/MS4s/Residents. Spanish ranged from almost-none to barely-advanced. I think intermediate level is the minimum to get enough out of the program.

If the med student’s goal is to speak medical Spanish, a beginner/low level intermediate would benefit most from more time in one-on-one instruction/language study before spending a lot of time in the clinic (which the school does offer). My Spanish was just above “barely-advanced” and I had more opportunity because of it, i.e. the midwife looked to me to assist or take over more often than the less fluent students. The school also directed the intermediate level students to the school clinic because they were not ready to work with the midwife. I just think the website needs to acknowledge the variety of students Pop-Wuj accepts and students need to be prepared for that.

H. Did you take this experience for elective credit?  YES  NO

If ‘yes’ please describe how you were evaluated:

A Paper according to the FMME 425 Guidelines.

I. Did you feel that you had adequate support from UNC in setting up this elective?  YES  NO

**THANK YOU!!! THIS INFORMATION WILL HELP FUTURE STUDENTS !!!**